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VEGETABLE PRICES CLIMB -- Sofia, Izgrev, 12 Dec 50

In spite of the relative improvement noticed during 1950 in the supply of vegetables to the Sofia area, it is still generally very inadequate. As a result, private consumers and organizations are resorting to personal contacts with vegetable sellers [presumably black market], and prices on the free market are taking an upward swing.

The reasons for these unsatisfactory conditions are multiple:

The Ministries of Agriculture and of Internal Trade have failed to establish proper plans for vegetable planting. In 1949, the purchasing organizations failed to purchase the planned quantities of vegetables, thus causing considerable losses to the producers, who subsequently refrained from planting vegetables. The established plans contained many errors: the same areas were first allocated for one crop and later on for another. The severe drought, plant diseases, and pests were further causes of a poor vegetable harvest. The Ministry of Agriculture and its organs have failed to cooperate in the campaign against pests, which destroyed a considerable part of the harvest. In some areas, the Zemsnab Organization distributed ungraded seed, which failed to sprout or produced very poor crops. The Ministry of Internal Trade was not informed of the daily volume of vegetables supplied to stores and markets and also failed to take adequate measures for the distribution of produce throughout the area. The operations of cooperatives were not supervised. Agreements between producers and purchasing agencies frequently remained unfulfilled, because of the absence of a clause making the producer legally responsible for failure to comply with the provisions of the agreement.

COTTON PURCHASE PLAN LAGS -- Sofia, Izgrev, 10 Dec 50

The cotton purchase plan is being carried out throughout the country with undue delay, and only 1-2 percent of the daily plans is fulfilled. There are no reasons for this procrastination, as the warehouse space is adequate and the food-stuffs delivered to cotton producers in exchange for their crops have been dispatched to the proper areas. As of 4 December 1950, the plan was fulfilled by only 72 percent.

The main reason for this failure lies in kulak resistance and the yielding of local organizations to their hostile propaganda. As a result, some okoliyas show an extremely low plan fulfillment, as in Pazardzhik, where cotton deliveries have reached only 54 percent of the plan.

A typical incident of successful kulak propaganda occurred in Chalkovo Village, Plovdiv Okoliya, where all the cotton producers in company with the chairman and the secretary of the village soviet ginned the cotton they had concealed from the agents of the Textile Fiber State Economic Enterprise, and the okoliya people's soviet did nothing to stop them.

The campaign must now be considerably speeded. The experiences acquired by the authorities during the grain-delivery campaign must now be applied to insure the success of the cotton-purchase plan. Poor and middle peasants should be organized to denounce and report kulak activities.

REPORT IMPROVEMENT IN MILK-DELIVERY PLAN FULFILLMENT -- Sofia Izgrev, 8 Dec 50

The strong measures and educational campaigns launched to improve the fulfillment of the milk-delivery plan have yielded gratifying results. Another factor in the improvement was the recent decree of the Council of Ministers, authorizing the substitution of home-made cheese, oil and sunflower seed, in satisfying the milk quotas. The highest fulfillment has been reached in Stara Zagora, with 74.5 percent of the yearly plan and 322-percent fulfillment of the 5-day delivery chart as of 30 November 1950. The lowest figure has been noted in Yambol Okrug.

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PLEDGE TO OBTAIN HIGHER YIELDS -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 7 Dec 50

Work brigades in farm workers' cooperatives of Trayan Okoliya have signed pledges to obtain the following yields in 1951: wheat 250 kilograms per decare, corn 300 kilograms, barley 280 kilograms, sunflowers 180 kilograms, and oats 150 kilograms per decare.

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